

FLD
84

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

This Document contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States, within the meaning of Title 18, Sections 793 and 794, of the U.S. Code, as amended. Its transmission or revelation of its contents to or receipt by an unauthorized person is prohibited by law. The reproduction of this form is prohibited.

SECRET

25X1

| | | | |
|----------------|---|-----------------|---------------------------|
| COUNTRY | Hungary | REPORT NO. | |
| SUBJECT | Communist Party Organization in the Foundries and Machine Industries Ministry | DATE DISTR. | 25X1A 3 September 1953 |
| DATE OF INFO. | 25X1A | NO. OF PAGES | 8 |
| PLACE ACQUIRED | | REQUIREMENT NO. | |
| | | REFERENCES | 25X1A |

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

25X1X

1. The Party organization of the Foundries and Machine Industries Ministry and the industrial enterprises under its control was subordinate to the Fifth District Party Organization of Budapest, because of the Ministry's location in the Fifth District of Budapest. There were 900 Party members in the Ministry's Party organization.
2. Within the Ministry the Party organization was divided into Basic Organs for administrative purposes of about 150 members each (further divided into supervised groups of 8-10) which took care of the Party activities of employees in all departments. All of the Basic Organs within the Ministry were directed by the Party Committee, headed by a Chairman whose position was nominal and honorary, and the Party Secretary, who was actual director of all Party affairs. The Party Secretary was aided by the Agitation and Propaganda Secretary and his Agitation Committee, the Deputy for Instruction and his Instruction Committee, the Deputy for Economy and his Economy Committee, and all Basic Organ secretaries and the deputies under their control.
3. As the head of the Party organization within an enterprise or institution, the Secretary of the Party Committee was nicknamed the "top secretary". Anyone becoming a Party Secretary had undergone careful examination by the Central Control Committee (Koezponti Ellenőrző Bizottság-KEB) of the Party and therefore enjoyed the full confidence of the Party. He was in direct contact with the District, with the Security Office, with the Minister or his first deputy, and with the chief of the Personnel Division in secret and confidential personnel matters. The Secretary of the Party Committee received his salary for his Party work and

SECRET

25X1A

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|----|------|----|------|----|-----|----|-----|--|-----|--|--|--|--|--|
| STATE | #X | ARMY | #X | NAVY | #X | AIR | #X | FBI | | AEC | | | | | |
|-------|----|------|----|------|----|-----|----|-----|--|-----|--|--|--|--|--|

(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated by "X", Field Distribution by "#")

SECRET

-2-

25X1A

was entirely free to devote all of his time to it. Besides his responsibility for opening all letters classified confidential, or above, his functions included:

- a. Reading all printed data (Anyag es Adatszolgaltatas) dealing with personnel in his Ministry or enterprise and published to train Party Secretaries. He was also responsible for reading the publication Party Building (Partepites), a monthly publication formerly called Party Worker (Partmunkas).
- b. Reading daily from cover to cover the Party newspaper Szabad Nép and making notes and extracts from it, and studying the Social Review (Tarsadalmi Szemle), which the Party issued for the orientation of Party functionaries.
- c. Responsibility for listening to the Hungarian language broadcasts from the West, so he could prepare refutations against them for lectures at meetings of Party Secretaries. He had a powerful "Orion" radio at his disposal.
- d. Preparation of a weekly report on his organization for presentation at the Fifth District Party Secretaries' Conference, after carefully studying instructions of the Fifth District Party Committee. The report, typed double-space on one side of the paper, had to cover the newest problems and had to be read in its entirety. Extemporaneous speeches were not allowed.

4. Within the Foundries and Machine Industries Ministry the Party Secretary was András KESZKELY

Formerly Secretary of Basic Organ No. 4 in the Heavy Metal Industry Division, he became Secretary of the Party Committee in the Summer of 1951, replacing (fnu) VAJDA, who was sent to the Red Academy. VAJDA's predecessor had been Sándor KALOCSAI, who became head of the Budapest Fifth District Agitation and Propaganda Department.

5. The Party office in the Foundries and Machine Industries Ministry was located on the first floor of the Ministry building on Szabadnag ter 5-6. The office of the Party Secretary was luxuriously furnished with leather chairs, an executive desk, a large Persian rug, and a round table. The room also contained a bookcase and safe. Statues of Stalin and Lenin were on the desk and a portrait cut in red brass hung on the wall. Small red silk flags which the Ministry Party organization received from the District for its part in the organization of parades, etc., were placed around on the desk, table and bookcase. On a small table near the desk were three telephones. One was a direct city line. Another connected the Party Secretary with high officials within the Ministry by pressing a button. The third telephone was connected with all other house telephones. Outside calls were taken first by clerks in an adjoining room, where there were a clerk-stenographer and a typist. Adjoining the anteroom of the Party Secretary's office was a larger room which was used for meetings. In the center of this room was a long table with about 20-30 chairs. Next to this room was the office of the Party Committee's Agitprop Secretary.

6. The Party office kept a record of membership, showing the date and amount of membership dues paid, dates of completion of seminars, Party schools or Russian language courses, present and previous Party work. Filed with this information was a biography and a short summary of investigation results, in which reliability was given particular consideration. These data, kept in a large safe and handled by the clerk-stenographer, determined each member's future. When a Party member was transferred from the Ministry to another institution or enterprise, he had to report to the office of the Party Secretary, where an entry was made on the last page of his book showing the date of transfer. This entry was signed by the Party Secretary and stamped with the Party rubber stamp.

SECRET

25X1
SECRET

-3-

25X1A

25X1

8. The Chairman of the Party Committee was usually a high official of the Ministry, but this was a purely honorary office with no authority attached to it. Minister ZSOFINYES was Chairman of the Party Committee at one time. Later the chief of the Ministry's Planning Division held the position [redacted]

25X1

9. The 12 Basic Organs in the Foundries and Machine Industries Ministry were as follows:

- a. Basic Organ No. 1 included the Economy Office, caretakers, transportation personnel, the payroll group, accounting and treasury offices, telephone center personnel, mail clerks, porters, skilled laborers, charwomen. (Fnu) HORVAT was organ secretary.
- b. Basic Organ No. 2 included personnel in the Planning Division, the Personnel Division, the Minister's and the Ministry's Secretariats.
- c. Basic Organ No. 3 included personnel in the Machine Tool Industry Division.
- d. Basic Organ No. 4 was the organ of the Heavy Metal Industry Division until 1 February 1952, when this Division was separated from the Ministry and transformed into the Medium Machine Industry Ministry. [redacted] the DI Industrial Records Division came under Basic Organ No. 4 after that date.
- e. Basic Organ No. 5 included personnel of the Transportation Industry Division.
- f. Basic Organ No. 6 was the organ of the Machine Industry Division.
- g. Basic Organ No. 7 included personnel of the Materials and Goods Distribution Division. Lajos VICIAN was Agitprop secretary for this organ.
- h. Basic Organ No. 8 included personnel of the Labor Division, the Technical Development Division, and the Legal Division.
- i. Basic Organ No. 9 included personnel of the Communications Division.
- j. Basic Organ No. 10 included personnel of the Consumer Goods Division.
- k. Basic Organ No. 11 included personnel of the Iron Metallurgy Division and the Legal Department for Heavy Industry Enterprises. The leaders of this organ were two Communists who worked in the Legal Department -- Dr. Lajos ASZTALOS and Dr. (fnu) TIMAR. Secretary of this organ was Janos SVELLA.
- l. Basic Organ No. 12 consisted of High Tension Power Division personnel.

25X1A

Functionaries of the Basic Organs and Their Activities

10. The Director of each Basic Organ was its Secretary. The Party Committee Secretary held weekly meetings with the Secretaries of all Basic Organs, at which he gave them Party instructions. The

SECRET

SECRET

-4-

25X1A

day after these meetings the Secretaries of the Basic Organs acquainted the members of the Basic Organ Committees with the latest instructions and advised them how to carry them out. The Basic Organ Secretary was obliged to direct and supervise the Party work of Committee members. Once a month the Basic Organ held a membership meeting at which it was the Basic Organ Secretary's responsibility to acquaint the members with the work of the Organ and its committees since the last meeting, in the form of the Secretary's Report -- always the first item on the agenda. His report included such subjects as the change in membership, instruction problems, success of Party press distribution, increase or reduction in subscribers, criticism of wall newspapers, local or other agitation tasks, and the work of Party trustees in charge of the smaller groups within the Basic Organs. The next point on the agenda was an announcement of the Party Central Committee's decisions and their implementation. The third point covered membership problems -- acceptance of members or exclusion of members and, finally, disciplinary measures. These meetings were an outstanding feature in Party life, in which only those who could present a Party membership book and who had paid membership dues could participate. In addition to Party meetings, a Party Day was held once a month at which all employees had to be present to hear about Party decisions and foreign policy from the Communist point of view.

The Agitation and Propaganda Secretary (Agitprop Secretary) of the Party Committee and the Agitation Committee.

11. The Agitprop Secretary administered special work of the Party apparatus in the Ministry and the Agitation Committee was subordinated to him. This Committee included the following members, whose functions are described below:
 - a. Central Deputy for Press
 - b. Central Deputy for Wall Newspapers
 - c. Central Deputy for Cultural Activities
 - d. Central Deputy for Decorations
 - e. Deputy for the Hungarian Democratic Youth Association (Demokratikus Ifjúsági Szövetség Felelőse - DISZ)
 - f. Deputies for other Mass Organizations -- the Hungarian Freedom Fighters' Association (Magyar Szabadságharcos Szövetség - MSZHSZ), the Hungarian-Soviet Society (Magyar-Szovjet Társaság - MSZT), the Democratic Association of Hungarian Women (Magyar Nők Demokratikus Szövetsége - MNDSZ).
 - g. Trade Union Trustee
12. The Central Deputy for the Press had to attend the monthly City District press conference, along with members responsible for the press in other Ministries and enterprises within that District. Also present at these meetings were the representative of Szabad Nép and chiefs of the District press departments. At the press conference the press in general was discussed and criticized -- deficiencies were pointed out, and meritorious work of the previous month was praised. It was mentioned by representatives at these meetings that their efficiency was impaired because of frequent changes in policy, etc. The Press Deputy was responsible for impressing members with the fact that they must not only subscribe to Szabad Nép, but they must also read it. (In July 1951 the Party Central Committee decided to change the manner of newspaper distribution beginning in April 1952. At that time every enterprise employing more than 300 persons was to get an "independent" press administrator who would not be an employee of the enterprise but of the Post Office Central Newspaper Office (Posta Központ Hírlap Irada). These administrators were to have no responsibility

SECRET

SECRET

-5-

25X1A

for the political aspects of the press, but on the 25th of every month they were to give stamps to the Basic Organ Press Deputies for the payment of subscriptions to Szabad Nép, to Lasting Peace, and to People's Democracy. Each Basic Organ Press Deputy was to attach these stamps in his subscription book if the Economy Deputy of his organ had paid the amount indicated.) This deputy of the Agitprop Secretary was responsible also for the activities of the Friendly Circles of Szabad Nép (Szabad Nép Barati Körök), of which there were 70-80 in the Foundries and Machine Industries Ministry, each numbering no more than 10-15 persons. Members of these Circles could be non-Communists or even persons excluded from the Party. The Circles met once a week for half an hour before or after working hours. Attendance at these meetings was checked by the leader and absentees were ordered to appear at the next meeting and to give a 10-minute report on domestic or foreign problems based on articles in Szabad Nép. Members were supposed to comment on these and other reports on the basis of their own reading of the newspaper articles. The Press Deputy saw to it that press competitions were organized in the Ministry and that flags were distributed to the winners.

13. The Central Deputy for Wall Newspapers entrusted one of the more able Communists in each Basic Organ to organize a Wall Newspaper Committee. The Central Deputy supervised and controlled the Basic Organ Deputies in editing their wall newspapers. He also suggested topics for articles, competitions, etc. Wall newspapers are a Russian idea. The most important wall newspaper was the Hungarian Workers' Party paper (Magyar Dolgozók Partja - MDP). It was usually posted on a wooden board up to two or three meters in size which was covered with red canvas, framed with gold, and decorated with red flags and the hammer and sickle. In 1952 articles were featured which attacked "pest gangsters" (pestisgangszterek, i.e., bacteriological warfare), praised the Soviet Constitution and the extraordinary Soviet successes in production and in changing nature. They also demanded the liberation of Greek partisans, cursed Tito as "the chain-dog of imperialists", attacked the Bonn contract, and criticized Communists who had fallen from grace. Special wall newspapers were also published by DISZ and the other mass organizations -- MSZHSZ, MSZT, and MND SZ, and the trade unions.
14. The Central Deputy for Cultural Activities received all of his instructions from the Agitprop Secretary of the Party Committee, to whom he was subordinate. These directions were in connection with celebrations of Communist holidays and with the needs of the various culture groups -- the dance group, the acting group, the singing group, and the music group. The dance group wore the same costumes as Soviet dance groups and their repertoire consisted almost entirely of Russian dances. Hungarian folk dances, such as the csardas, were not included in the repertoire. The acting group presented mostly Russian plays dealing with workers who fulfilled and over-fulfilled their quotas and fought internal enemies of Marxian socialism. The audience, of course, acknowledged these productions with thunderous applause. The singing group had to learn first of all the "Stalin Cantata". As a part of their permanent repertoire they also sang "Danyushka" and "Dear Comrade Rákosi" (Draga Rákosi elvtárs), as well as other Communist songs. The music group was also organized according to the Russian pattern. The band always included three or four balalaikas, Russian mandolins, and accordions.

SECRET

SECRET

-6-

25X1A

In the Foundries and Machine Industries Ministry and in government administrative offices the cultural groups practiced in the morning before work from 0700-0830 hours. In industrial enterprises they practiced after work because industrial enterprises started work at 0700 hours and in the summer even at 0600 hours in the morning.

15. The Agitation Committee's Central Deputy for Decorations, who had under him 12 Basic Organ deputies, was responsible for the decoration of all buildings of the Ministry, both inside and outside. In April 1952, Lajos MAROCKI held this office in the Ministry. He complained that he was not allowed enough money to carry out his job. In Budapest buildings were decorated about five times a year (4 April -- Liberation Day; 1 May -- Workers' Holiday; 20 August -- New Constitution Day; 7 October -- Soviet Socialist Revolution Day; 21 December -- Stalin's birthday). In addition, there were local holidays in the enterprises. Enormous sums of money were spent all over the country for decorating not only government offices and enterprises, but also dwellings and apartment houses. The cost of decorations for private dwellings was squeezed out of residents by house trustees. In the Foundries and Machine Industries Ministry the Central Deputy for Decorations was also in charge of procuring the materials needed for decorations. [redacted] about 900 m. of red canvas was needed for decorating the front of the eight-story building facing Szabadság tér, which, at the lowest possible cost of 20 forints per meter, would come to about 18,000 forints for the canvas alone. Whenever there were parades, women employees who knew how to sew were given the task of making flags, etc. The Communists, who did not care how much they spent for parades, considered the time lost from work for these preparations time well spent.

25X1A

25X1A

16. [redacted] (fnu) FRIDRICH, painted decorations for the Ministry for the salary of a referent. He had to submit several samples in miniature to the Central Deputy for Decorations, who forwarded them through the Agitprop Secretary to the Agitation Committee, which selected the best. He often had to paint pictures 10 x 20 m. of Lenin, Stalin, Rákosi, Soviet soldier groups, etc., which were hoisted by workers on the Ministry building facing Szabadság tér. He had to paint pictures of Lenin and Stalin even when there were no holidays. He said that he was unhappy to be in the service of the Communists and regretted that his art was serving Communist propaganda. [redacted]

25X1

25X1

17. The DISZ leader attended the Agitation Committee's conferences and got weekly instructions regarding education of youth. On the ground floor of the Foundries and Machine Industries Ministry building at Teleke utca 21 there were rooms at the disposal of DISZ. The Party followed DISZ activities carefully and arranged special courses, Party schools, and political programs for youth. But even though the Party tried to win youth at any cost, it was not strictly successful at it.
18. The Trade Union Trustee and deputies representing the other mass organizations [See paragraph 11] had to be present also at the Agitation Committee's weekly meetings in order to receive Party instructions for their respective organizations.

SECRET

25X1
SECRET

25X1A

19. The Deputy for Instruction (Oktatási Felelős) was directly subordinate to the Party Secretary. He had to be well trained in Communist ideology. Anyone responsible for instruction had to have had at least six months to one year of Party schooling. In 1951 about 40 courses in political subjects were being given in the four buildings of the Foundries and Machine Industries Ministry, with a total of about 700 students. Similar schools operated in other enterprises and institutions, in accordance with the Party theory that "without Party instruction socialism cannot be built". Every year in October or November basic and intermediate political classes were started to which especially selected persons were sent. The courses lasted eight months. Non-members of the Party could be selected for these classes because of their excellence in union organization work, etc., but no one was selected who had been excluded from the Party. Subjects studied in the basic political school included history of society, Marxism and Leninism, the Hungarian government's internal and external problems, the situation of the workers' class and its role, the crisis of the capitalist order, etc. In each class there were at the most 20 persons. A student could not be late to class and an office supervisor could not detain a student from attending school for any reason. If a student failed to attend school he was demoted in his job. A supervisor was present in all classes who did not teach or give speeches, but watched and made notes. On the basis of the supervisor's reports the teacher was replaced or promoted. The method of instruction consisted of a 20-minute lecture followed by a long discussion period, during which the leader saw to it that the students did not digress from the subject. Students had to take notes on the lectures and prepare reports on them, which often were as long as 20 pages. The last half hour of the three-hour class was spent in singing Communist songs.

All teachers in political schools were Communists who had finished a resident three-to-six month course, during which they received intensive indoctrination from leading ideologists in the House of Party Teachers (Paroktatók Háza), Budapest VII, Dohány utca 76, a five story building consisting of one large lecture room with a capacity of 1,000 persons and several smaller lecture rooms. Budapest Party Secretaries and other Party functionaries gathered here for deliberation on any important Communist move.

20. The Deputy for Economy was directly under the control of the Party Secretary and headed the Economy Committee. This Deputy received monthly Party membership stamps from the District Party Committee. The Party organization in the Ministry bought about 20,000 forints' worth of stamps from the District monthly. The members of the Economy Committee distributed these stamps to the Basic Organ Deputies for Economy, who later distributed them to Party group trustees. The Deputy for Economy, together with the members of the Economy Committee, paid out funds for decorations and covered all expenses which served the Party aims of the Ministry.

Annex A: Organizational Chart of the Hungarian Workers' Party in the Foundries and Machine Industries Ministry as of April 1952.

SECRET

Annexure A

Organisation of the Hungarian Workers' Party (Magyar Dolgosok Partja - NDP) in the Foundries and Machine Industries Ministry and Other Government Enterprises as of April 1952

